

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2012
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, *Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

**=arrived after roll call*

ABSENT: Council members: Austin, Curwen

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Council President McCarthy stated that the following council members weren't in attendance for the following reasons: Council member Curwen was recovering from surgery and Council member Austin was on new medication.

The Following Named Persons Signed Up Prior To The Public Speaking Session To Address The City Council:

NAME

SUBJECT

Helen Olga Losak stated that she had a petition signed of those that were against the \$80.00 certificate of occupancy fee. She said she felt the fee was unnecessary, noting that the Bridgeport Fire Department conducts inspections for free. She further stated that rental fees for renters have increased and she said instead of punishing the landlords, she thought they should crack down on the Sacred Heart University students that have rowdy parties. She urged the city council to vote no for the \$80.00 certificate of occupancy ordinance.

Ken Hayes stated he was one of the promoters for the Gathering of the Vibes Festival. He recalled that a five year contract was approved by the city council in the past. He noted that the festival operates an office at 2870 Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport. He explained that the proposal was submitted for a contract with the city for another five years; in addition to the rental fee of \$4,000 for use of all the designated areas in Seaside Park. He added that they also donated close to \$200k to the Bridgeport Park Development Fund within the last couple of years. He went on to mention other things that benefit the residents of the city, such as; discounted tickets to the festival for Bridgeport residents.

And he noted that 1,273 tickets were purchased in 2012 and 3,900 adults brought 1,270 kids under the age of fifteen to the festival that were from all over Connecticut to experience a well run, clean, safe festival. He expressed that he hoped everyone saw the value in that as an asset. He further expressed that he loved the event and he relayed that 40,000 lbs of non-perishable foods were collected as an addition to the event.

Jehan Abdur-Raheem spoke about a meeting he had with David Wyatt to address how the curfew has worked out in New York. He offered some suggestions for the purpose of monitoring how the curfew in Bridgeport is working:

- An ongoing record should be kept of the number of youth being stopped
- The number of parents that have been fined
- The age and race of the youth involved

He said he felt that after compiling this information, they will be better equipped to determine if the curfew would be supported and to also uphold the sanctity of families in Bridgeport.

Carmen Lopez spoke about the advisory council to advise the Mayor of potential candidates that will be chosen to serve of the Board of Education. She stated the city's website has a listing of all the boards and commissions that are active and the terms of those that have expired. She asked the city council to consider filling the expired appointments that serve on the boards and commission a priority.

The public speaking session closed at 7:05 pm.

CITY of BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, *Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Austin, Curwen

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council President McCarthy.

Moment of silence – Council member Silva requested a moment of silence for Danny Martinez who formerly served on the city council.

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Council member Blunt.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Angel Martinez for his Act of Heroism.

Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy came forward to present the proclamation to Angel Martinez. Mr. Martinez and his family came to the front of council chambers to accept the proclamation.

Council President McCarthy expressed that he always likes to begin the meeting by recognizing good people in the city that do extraordinary things. He shared that Mr. Martinez has showed heroism twice in the face of danger by going into burning buildings

to save others, noting that he has thought of others first, Fire Chief Bob Petrucelli and Reverend Simon Castillo that was visiting tonight were also asked to come forward. Mayor Finch recalled that when he first met Angel after a major fire that occurred on West Avenue. He expressed that Angel helped people get out of the building and shortly thereafter, another fire occurred where he once again helped people get out. Mayor Finch relayed that because of Angel's vigilance and others heroism, RYSAP has installed a large amount of smoke detectors in dwellings throughout the city.

The recipient Angel Martinez cautioned everyone that when someone moves to a new place, they should be aware of their surroundings and make sure that there are smoke alarms installed.

Mayor Finch expressed that the recognition was a long time coming and it was well deserved.

A group picture was taken.

Addendum: City Council Citation: In recognition of Richard M. Paoletto, Jr. for his leadership, hard work, and commitment to the safety of our residents and being selected to serve as a member of the State, Local, and Tribal and Territorial Coordinating Council.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy and Council members Bonney and dePara came forward to present a citation to: Council member Richard Paoletto.

Council President McCarthy expressed that it was a great day when they are able to recognize one of their own hardworking council member. He stated that the city council wanted to recognize in their own way that Council member Paoletto was one out of forty-two people to serve on the Homeland Security Council. He mentioned that it will be his charge to ensure that the city is kept apprised of all security measures that may be required (post 9-11). He explained that the committee Council member Paoletto serves on is responsible for driving the actions of Homeland Security. He expressed that they were very proud of him and he urged him to keep up the good work – *the citation was read.*

Mayor Finch congratulated Council member Paoletto. He commented that it wasn't just a big honor, but that it was an important position as well. He further commented that post 9-11, they need to be aware of the possibility of and imminent terrorist acts and the fact that Council member Paoletto is serving on the commission is a good thing for the city.

Council member Paoletto expressed that he was very proud to represent the City of Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut. He noted that during training, he became the liaison to the training and education center at Homeland Security.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: September 17, 2012

Council member Lyons submitted a correction to the minutes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

Correction

Page 1 of the September 17, 2012 minutes should read that **Council member Lyons was absent due to illness**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Announcements:

Council President McCarthy stated that Council member Curwen was recovering from surgery and Council member Austin had a medication change and was unable to attend the meeting.

Council President McCarthy called for a democratic caucus.

The council members entered into caucus at 7:25 pm.

The council members came out of caucus at 8:20 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 8:21 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

154-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Approval of Consultant to Develop City's 2013-2018 Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Paoletto requested to remove the following items:

***13-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15.12 Housing Code, amend Section 15.12.250 Rental Conditions-Certificate of Apartment Occupancy. - *removed*

- *140-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 2.123 Bridgeport Food Policy Council. - *removed*

The city clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record:

- *116-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #52-11) Request to donate one (1) remaining surplus fire engine to the Dominican Republic.
- *121-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program.
- *135-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2012 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.
- *136-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation FY 2013 Local Bridge Program for the Capitol Avenue Bridge over the Rooster River Overflow.
- *137-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation FY 2013 Local Bridge Program for the Arctic Street Bridge over Pembroke Lakes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the items that were removed from the consent calendar.

- *13-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15.12 Housing Code, amend Section 15.12.250 Rental Conditions-Certificate of Apartment Occupancy. - *removed*

Council member Paoletto stated that even though the item was previously tabled. He made the following motion:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM *13-11 AND RETURN IT TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (*COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA)**

****abstained due to a direct conflict with his job***

***140-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 2.123 Bridgeport Food Policy Council. – *removed*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM *140-11 AND RETURN IT TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

153-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Town of Stratford, Case No. 3:10-cv-394 (CHS) and No. 11-5042 (2d Cir.), **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

127-11 Contracts Committee Report re: Real Property Purchase Agreement with 125 Access Road, LLC.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The council members entered into executive session at 8:25 pm.

The council members came out of executive session at 9:35 pm.

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

153-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Town of Stratford, Case No. 3:10-cv-394 (CHS) and No. 11-5042 (2d Cir.), **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE THE FOLLOWING ITEM BEFORE THE FULL CITY COUNCIL**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

127-11 Contracts Committee Report re: Real Property Purchase Agreement with 125 Access Road, LLC.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY and COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services